

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077792

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT LIBREVILLE 0865, SENT SECSTATE, INFO USUN
06 APRIL:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0865

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB, US, UN

SUBJECT: UNSC DEBATE ON BENIN COMPLAINT

REF: USUN 1017

1. IN ANTICIPATION UPCOMING UNSC DEBATE ON BENIN COMPLAINT
(REFTEL) PRESIDENT BONGO SENT SPECIAL EMISSARY TO ASK
US TO STAND FIRM AGAINST ANY SC RESOLUTION CONDEMNATORY
OF ALLEGED GABONESE ROLE.

2. ACCORDING TO MINISTER (AND FORMER DIRECTEUR DE CABINET)
MAYILA, WHO WAS BEARER OF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE, GOG IS
PARTICULARLY TROUBLED OVER TIMING OF ACCUSATION AND DEBATE
RELATIVE TO FORTHCOMING OAU SUMMIT MEETING. GOG CONTINUES
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TO DENY ALL COMPLICITY IN JANUARY 16 MERCENARY RAID ON
COTONOU, AND HAS TWICE OFFERED IN CABLES TO UNSYG WALDHEIM
TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE OF ITS INNOCENCE TO UN INVESTIGATING
TEAM, IN VIEW FACT THAT UN INVESTIGATORS HAVE NOT VISITED
ANY OF ACCUSED COUNTRIES, AND ADMITTED IN THEIR
REPORT THAT THEY HAD NOT TIME TO VERIFY MUCH OF
EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO THEM IN BENIN, GABONESE FEEL

THAT ANY CONDEMNATION OF THEIR ROLE IS UNWARRANTED
AND WOULD BE TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE.

3. IN THIS SITUATION, GOG HOPES US WILL STAND FIRM
AGAINST ANY SUCH CONDEMNATION AND WILL INSIST ON
MORE THOROUGH AND BALANCED INVESTIGATION OF BENIN
COMPLAINTS. GABONESE ARE HOPEFUL NO SUCH RESOLUTION WILL
BE PLACED TO VOTE, BUT HAVE ASKED THAT US BE PREPARED
TO EXERCISE VETO IF NECESSARY TO ENSURE FAIR OUTCOME OF
DEBATE

4. COMMENT: I MADE NO PROMISE TO MAYILA OTHER THAN TO
TRANSMIT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, BUT BELIEVE GABONESE DO
HAVE REASONABLE ARGUMENT THAT THEY DESERVE FAIR HEARING
AND CHANCE TO PRESENT EVIDENCE BEFORE BEING CONDEMNED.

5. FOR USUN: WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INCLUDED AS ADDRESSEE
ON ALL CABLES REPORTING UNSC DEBATE ON BENIN COMPLAINT, AND
PARTICULARLY ON ANY REPORT OF STATEMENTS TO COUNCIL BY US
REPRESENTATIVE. STEIGMAN UNQUOTE. VANCE

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